

Evidentiary Document # 5205.

Police Station, Newmarket.  
AUCKLAND.  
25th October, 1945.

ERL N. M. URICE JOHNS states:-

I am a duly qualified registered medical practitioner. I am registered in New Zealand, England and Malaya. I am Senior Surgeon, General Hospital, Singapore, a member of the Malayan Medical Service. I am an ex-civil internee of war, Singapore Area. I was born in New Zealand on 15th March, 1901. I am at present on leave in New Zealand and my address is 28 Dilworth Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

(I was at my post in Singapore when the Japanese captured the town. Among others, I was interned on 26th February, 1942. Until the 6th March, 1942, I was confined in an old house on the waterfront at Singapore. On that date, all the civil internees, including myself, were marched seven miles to Changi Civil prison. The women and children were quartered in one section of the prison and the men in another section.

At all times, Japanese soldiers were in charge of the internees and prisoners, though the administration changed from time to time.

The following important persons were interned with me:-

Sir Shenton Thomas, Governor of Straits Settlements,  
General McRae, Indian Medical Service,  
Sir Percy McElwain, Chief Justice, Straits Settlements,  
The Chief Justice of the Federated Malay Straits (I cannot recall his name),  
Mr. Spits, Governor of Sumatra,  
Mr. Charles Howell, Attorney-General of Straits Settlements, and  
Mr. Hugh Fraser, Colonial Secretary.

On an average, there would be about 2,500 men and about 500 women and children in Changi Prison Camp. They comprised various nationalities, there being New Zealanders, Englishmen, Australians, Americans, Dutch, South Africans, Canadians, a Spaniard, a Rumanian, an Indian, several Chinese, and some Armenians. Altogether, there were about 27 different nationalities represented in the prison.

Conditions at Changi prison were not satisfactory. There was gross overcrowding, which was the chief complaint. The prison was only meant to hold 600 persons in all. At times, it contained over 3,000 persons of both sexes, which caused much inconvenience. However, the water supply, electric light and sanitation were satisfactory, as were the cooking facilities.

The cells in which some of the internees were confined were meant to hold one person only, but three internees were placed in each cell. There was one platform only to sleep on. The cells were small. I cannot remember the exact measurements. On account of the over-crowding, the cells could not contain everybody in the prison, so that the workshops and every other spare room was occupied by the internees.

[After repeated requests to the Japanese, we were allowed the use of the prison hospitals, one for women and children, the other for the men.]

For about the first year, due mainly to our own efforts, we had sufficient food, and at that time I do not think any person died from starvation, though there was illness from malnutrition (the result of an unbalanced diet). This began to appear fairly early in 1942.

[On 10th October, 1943,] all internees in Changi prison were paraded soon after dawn in the main yard as if for a routine roll call. Soon after this, the Japanese military police arrived and armed soldiers picketed all doors. A number of internees were called out by name, labelled and segregated. The internees were then ordered back to their block yards where further labelling and segregation took place. Meanwhile a search was made of the personal belongings of all internees. During this search, there was looting and wanton destruction by the Japanese. The investigation ended soon after dusk the same day and internees were allowed to return inside the prison. Many of them had had no food since 6 p.m. the previous day, and some suffered collapse, owing to the day long exposure to the sun without food.

In consequence of this investigation, 57 internees, including myself, were removed from Changi prison by the military police on or after the 10th October, 1943. With one exception, these were all interrogated at Japanese military police centres at Singapore. The course of the investigation revealed that the Japanese were trying to establish that there was a spy organization in Changi prison, which received and transmitted messages by wireless.

I was detained with others in a block of flats in Smith Street, Singapore. Altogether, I was interrogated by the Japanese about 26 times, and after one such interrogation I was beaten by the Japanese. I will refer to this incident later in my statement.

[I will first relate what happened to a Chinese lad named Lin.] I do not know his full name. He was employed in the Japanese office of the internment camp and was arrested and placed in the same cell that I was occupying. Although I did not actually witness his beating, the condition of bruising and open wounds when he was returned to the cell after interrogation, was, to my mind, conclusive evidence of the brutal treatment he had received. He was one of the first to be interrogated by the Japanese, and after several of such interviews he was so sick that he was unable to take any food whatever, and whenever I gave him water to sip he immediately vomited it back. In my opinion he was suffering from an intra-abdominal lesion, probably a ruptured liver. The whole of the back of his neck and upper part of his back and the whole of his buttocks were extensively bruised. This incident occurred between 11th October, 1943, and 17th October, 1943, on which day he was removed from the cell, to my mind, in a dying condition. All I could get from him was that the Japanese had told him that if he knew anything he must tell them about it. They did not ask him to speak or refer to any specific incident.

I subsequently made enquiries, and since hostilities ceased I was informed by several people, who I have reason to believe knew him, that he died. I cannot remember the names of the people who told me about Lin's death.

Later, the 23rd November, 1943, while still in detention, I was summoned by the Japanese for interrogation. The interrogation lasted for about two hours and the questioning related to an alleged wireless transmitting set which the Japanese informed me that Dr. Cuthbert Arthur Stanley, who was quartered with me at Changi prison, had confessed to being in possession of. As I was well aware that Dr. Stanley was not in possession of such a set, I denied any knowledge of it. I was merely informed that Dr. Stanley had confessed. They told me that they had found the set in the prison, but did not produce it when I asked to see it. I was informed that I was regarded as being perfectly innocent, but that I was aware that Dr. Stanley had the wireless set as I had warned him that it was dangerous to possess it. This was untrue. At that time, Dr. Stanley was confined in the Y.M.C.A., which was being used as a Japanese military police headquarters. After questioning me for about two hours, the Japanese took me to a room in which I was told one or two of our people had been tortured by electric current. There were numerous wires lying about the room, but the apparatus was not working. I was then taken to another room on the ground floor. This was in the block of flats in Smith Street. The room was fairly large with a concrete floor. Hanging from the ceiling was a rope, to which my two hands were tied. I was then beaten by a large bamboo stick. The bamboo would be about two inches in diameter and about five feet long. It was an ordinary bamboo used to carry things on. I was then beaten over the buttocks, prodded with the end of the pole over all the bony points of the body, the knees, the thighs, and lower portion of the spine. The same pole was used to knock me down to my knees. It was then placed in a horizontal position behind the calves of the legs and the Japanese jumped on both ends of the pole. This went on for some time, after which the pole was placed between my feet and I was jerked to the standing position. I was further beaten over the buttocks by a piece of broken floor board. This board was about two and a half feet long, one and a half inches wide and about one inch thick. I was also beaten with the buckle end of a belt.

The Japanese also kicked me on the shins. After this form of treatment had continued for some time I fainted. When I recovered, my hands were untied and the rope tied round my waist. I was then swung round and round the room on the rope and struck with pieces of wood and kicked. I was later released and returned to my cell. During the course of the next twelve hours I fainted a number of times. My body was numb. None of the other internees witnessed what occurred to me in the torture room, but one of them was sitting in the next room where the beating took place. He was Mr. John Dalton, radio sound engineer, manager of a theatre in Kuala Lumpur. He later informed me that he had heard all that went on during my beating. There were three Japanese concerned in beating me. They were:-



- (1) A Japanese military policeman. I have reason to believe that he held the rank of Sergeant Major. I do not know his name, but on the several occasions that I saw him before and after my beating he was wearing the arm band of the Japanese military police. I cannot supply any other evidence as to his identity, except that I would be able to identify him again if I ever saw him. This man did the questioning.
- (2) A Japanese interpreter. The interpreter was not wearing Japanese uniform whenever I saw him. He was dressed in Japanese civilian clothing. I do not know his name. As far as I can remember, he was an interpreter attached solely to the Japanese military police. I do not think I would be able to identify him again.
- (3) A Japanese soldier acting as beater up. This man took no part in the interrogation. He was merely a thug. He actually tied me up and beat me with the bamboo, though the Sergeant Major took a hand in beating me as well. I have no knowledge that would assist in identifying this man. I would not be able to identify him again.

I cannot say who was in charge of the military police or offer any information in assisting in establishing the identity of the Japanese responsible for authorising or performing the acts of brutality. As a matter of fact, every Japanese soldier resorted to violence as a matter of course.

As a result of my beatings, I do not feel that I have suffered any permanent injuries. For four months after my beating, I had a rope burn on my right wrist and it was about seven months before the skin sensation returned to that hand. I also lost sensation on the inside of both thighs, the direct result of the use of the pole between my legs.

[After the beatings, it would be about the end of December, 1943, I contracted dysentery and I lay on the floor of my cell without any covering or medical attention for three weeks. After that, as a result of repeated requests by my cell mates, I was seen by a Japanese doctor, who merely ordered a mouth wash. I do not know his identity.

While I was confined in the detention cells, the other internees were taken out from time to time for questioning and would return showing unmistakable signs of beating and torture. I have seen my cell mates leave the cell quite fit and well and return from interrogation bearing obvious signs of physical torture.

I am unable to state whether the same Japanese beat up my cell mates and other internees in detention who beat me.

[Mr. Cheatle, Singapore manager for Thomas Cooke and Sons, was one man whom I saw with open wounds on the front of both knees, and fresh cigarette burns on the lower parts of the thighs and back of the neck. Mr. C.C. Jackson, Malayan Transport Board, another cell mate, told me that the Japanese had wrenched his thumb and broken it. I was able to

verify that the thumb was fractured. Mr. John Hardman, of the Electrical Dept., at Johore, informed me that he had sustained an injury to the knee as a result of being thrown by Ju-jitsu throws by the Japanese when his hands were tied behind his back. An examination of the knee showed that there was an injury to a cartilage. Another case I personally examined was that of a young Indian lad named Raju, who had been employed as a clerk in the Japanese office of the internment camp. He had a fracture of the knee cap and also of the ulnar bone in one forearm. I actually saw the results of Japanese punishment in respect to the men mentioned. I did not see the tortures being inflicted. The victims used to tell me what the Japanese did. On May 1st, 1944, I was transferred to Sime Road camp, where I remained until the end of hostilities.]

During the whole of my internment and unknown to the Japanese, a complete record was kept by various camp officials of all incidents and a full report prepared. I was head Commandant at the camp for nine months and during that period I assisted to maintain that record. Whenever it was reported that an incident had occurred a report would be taken from the victim and make a written record of it. We used to obtain all the facts, and in some cases we actually obtained signed statements from the victims. Complete records were made of housing, feeding, stores and supplies and every act of brutality. It would be impossible, without referring to that record, to give a complete statement of every act of violence I witnessed.

After hostilities ceased, I do not know what happened to the men, my cell mates, who were beaten up by the Japanese, referred to in this statement.

So far as the camp record is concerned, a full report was prepared and I think it would be sent to the Home Secretary, or the Colonial Office.

(Signed) B.M. JOHNS 25.10.45.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by the undersigned;

(Signed) A. RUSH  
Sergeant. 25.10.45.

Certified True Copy

(Signed) A. HIGHET  
Captain NZTS.  
20.2.1946.



Doc 5205

マレー海峽聯邦最高判事（名ヲ恩ヒ出セナイ）ス  
マトラ長官スピッツ氏、海峽殖民地檢事總長デヤ  
ールス・ボリエル氏、殖民地登記官ヒュー・フレ  
ーザー氏

デヤンギノ牢獄ニハ平均シテ約二、五〇〇人ノ男  
ト五〇〇人ノ女子供ガホタデセリ。彼等ハ種々、  
國籍ヲ有スル人々カラ成ツテキタ。ソノ牢獄内デ  
ハ全部デ約二十七ノ異ツタ國民ガ代表サレテキタ。

デヤンギ牢獄ノ状態ハ満足ナモノデハナカツタ。  
主ナル不平ハ余リニ大勢詰メ込ミ過ギテキタ事デ  
アツタ。ソノ牢獄ハ全部デ六〇〇人ヲ收容スル管  
ノモノニ過ギナカツタ、ニ、時ニハ男女合セテ三  
千人以上ガ收容サレ多クノ不便ヲ生ジタ。シカシ  
水ノ供給、電燈、衛生設備等ハ獄吏設備ト共ニ満  
足ナモノデアツタ。

抑留者中ノ英人々ガ收容サレテキタ小室ハ唯一人  
ノモノデアツタノニ三人モノ抑留者ガ各室ニ詰メ  
込マレテキタ程ル爲ニワツカーツノ寢台シカナカ  
ツタ。部屋ハ小サカツタ。．．．．．

日本人ニ對シ戻リ返シ要求シタ後ニ我々ハ牢獄ノ  
病院ノ使用ヲ許サレタ、ソノ一ハ女子供ノ爲ノモ  
ノデアリ他ハ男ノ爲ノモノデアツタ。

一九四三年（昭和十八年）十月十日全抑留者ノ各

2



Doc 5205



Doc 5265

ツタ。ソシテ其同カノカ、ル訊問ノ後彼ハ大層  
病ンデシマツテドンナ食物モ食ベル事ガ出来ズ  
又私ガ彼ニス、ラセル爲永ヲ具ヘテモ何時モソ  
レヲ吐キモドシタ、私ノ考ヘテハ彼ハ腹部内障  
害患クハ肝臓ノ破裂ヲ患ツテ居タノデアラワ、  
彼ハ後首ノ全部ト背中ノ上部及尻ノ全部ニ大キ  
ナ打撲傷ヲ受ケテキタ。此ノ事件ハ一九四三年  
十月十一日カラ十月十七日ノ間ニ起ツタ事デア  
ル、十月十七日ニ彼ハ、私ノ考ヘテハ恐ラク瀕死  
ノ状態デ、ソノ室カラ移サレタ私ガ彼カラ聞キ  
得タ事ハ日本人ガ彼ニ訊シモシ彼ガ何カラ知ツ  
テキルナラバソノ事ヲ日本人ニ話サナケレバナ  
ラナイト云ツタ事デアル。．．．．私ハ其ノ  
後彼ノ事ヲ尋ネタ。ソシテ私ハ彼ガ死ンダ．．  
トイフ事ヲ聞イタ。

ソノ後一九四三年十一月二十三日依然拘留中デ  
アツタ私ハ訊問ノ爲日本人ニ召喚サレタ。．．  
約二時間ノ訊問ノ後私ハ我ガ國民ノ二、三ノ人  
タガ電流ニヨル拷問ヲ受ケタト云フ部屋ニ連れ  
テ行カレタ。ソノ室ニハ無線ノ電線ガハリメグ  
ラサレテキタガ接点ハ動イテキナカッタ。私ハ  
ソレカラ地階ノ別ノ部屋ニ連れテ行カレタ。天  
井カラ一本ノ綱ガブラ下デラレテアリ、私ハソ

4.

Doc 5205

レニ兩手ヲシバリツケラレタ。ソシテ私ハ大キ  
ナ竹ノ竝デタ、カレタ、ソノ竹ハ直徑二時長サ  
約五呎アツタ。ソレハ例ヲ違フノニ用ヒラレル  
普通ノ竹デアツタ。ソレカラ私ハ尻ヲアタレ、  
骨ノ多イ部分、腰、股、脊椎ノ下部等ヲ棒ノ端  
デ突ツカレタ。同ジ棒ハ私ヲツク連打ツノ  
ニ用ヒラレタ。ソレカラ棒ハ私ノ脚ノフクラハ  
ギノ後ニ水平ニ置カレ日本人ガ棒ノ兩端ニ飛ビ  
上ツタ。コレハシバラクノ間ツマケラレタ。ソ  
ノ後棒ガ腋ノ間ニオカレ、ソシテ私ハ急ニ起立  
ノ姿勢ニ戻サレタ。ソレカラ私ハ破損シタ床板  
ノ一片デ尻ヲタ、カレタ。此ノ板ハ長サ約二呎  
半、巾一時半厚サ一時程アツタ。私ハ赤韋紐ノ  
締金ノアル部分デタ、カレ又向屋ヲ蹴ラレタ。  
カワイフ被ガシバラクツマケラレタ後私ハ失神  
シタ。意識ヲ取り戻シタ時私ノ手ノ網ハトカレ  
テ腰ノ廻リニク、リツケラレテキタ。ソレカラ  
私ハ部屋中ヲ網デ引キ廻サレ、木片デ打タレ、  
又蹴ラレタ。後デ私ハ解放サレ自分ノ部屋ニ戻  
サレタ。ツマク十二時間私ハ病院カ失神シタ。  
私ノ身体ハマヒシタ.....  
ソノ後、一ソレハ一九四三年十二月末ノ事デア  
ツタラワー私ハ赤痢ニカ、ツテ何ノ被覆モナク

3.

PURL: <http://www.legal-tools.org/doc/e59c1e/>



Doc 5205

ツノ例ハ、日本抑留者事務所ノ登記ニ用ハレテキ  
タ ラーヂヤ トイフ印長人少年ノソレデアル。  
彼ハ膝頭ニ骨折ラウケ、前膊ノ尺骨モ同様ニ挫カ  
レテキタ。私ハ是等ノ人々ニ對スル日本人ノ刑罰  
ノ結果ヲ實際ニ見タ。私ハ訪問ヲ受ケテキル所ハ  
見ザカツタガ、ソノ犠牲者ハ私ニ日本人ノシタ事  
ヲ語ツタ。一九四四年（昭和十九年）五月一日私  
ハSIMBROADノキャンプニ移サレ、我等ノ  
終マデソコニ居タ。